(b) if so, the names and location thereof; and

(c) the action taken on each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission within the framework of the Five Year Plans finalise Annual Plan and sectoral outlays primarily on the priority decided by the State Government. No scheme in respect of Government of Madhya Pradesh is pending with Planning Commission for investment clearance.

**Assessment Regarding Implementation of Projects under Eighth Five Year Plan**

6827. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the implementation of projects under the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that many projects of Eighth Plan are being implemented tardily; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that plan proposal and projects are implemented according to schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the data base for the rojects costing Rs. 20 crores and above monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation, 140 projects were completed between 4|92 ot 12|94. As on 1.1.95 out of 356 projects presently on the system of the Department of Programme Implementation, 235 projects were originally scheduled for completion during the 8th Five Year Plan i.e. between 4|92 and 3|97. Of these 22 projects have already slipped beyond the 8th Plan. Of the remaining 211 projects, 119 projects have registered delays during the course of their implementation with respect to the originally scheduled date of completion. They are expected to be completed in the 8th Plan period. In all 260 projects are now scheduled to be completed in the 8th Plan.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of projects include:

(i) The State Governments are regularly requested to extend necessary co-operation by making land available on time for project work and compansatory afforestation.

(ii) The contractors and suppliers are being asked to expedite the progress of works. Constant review and follow up is being made to arrest unavoidable delays.

(iii) The delay in supply of equipments from abroad are being tackled through diplomatic channels.

(iv) All project authorities have been asked to adopt latest project management techniques for monitoring the implementation of projects.

Besides these many improvements have been brought to tackle the weaknesses and avoid delays such as appointment of Empowered Committees for quick disoosal of disputes in the contracts or disputes of award of contracts, releaee of funds on the basis of physical progress made, continuance of project management team for the entire gestation period, etc.

**Infant Mortality Rate**

6828. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the infant mortality rate, daily